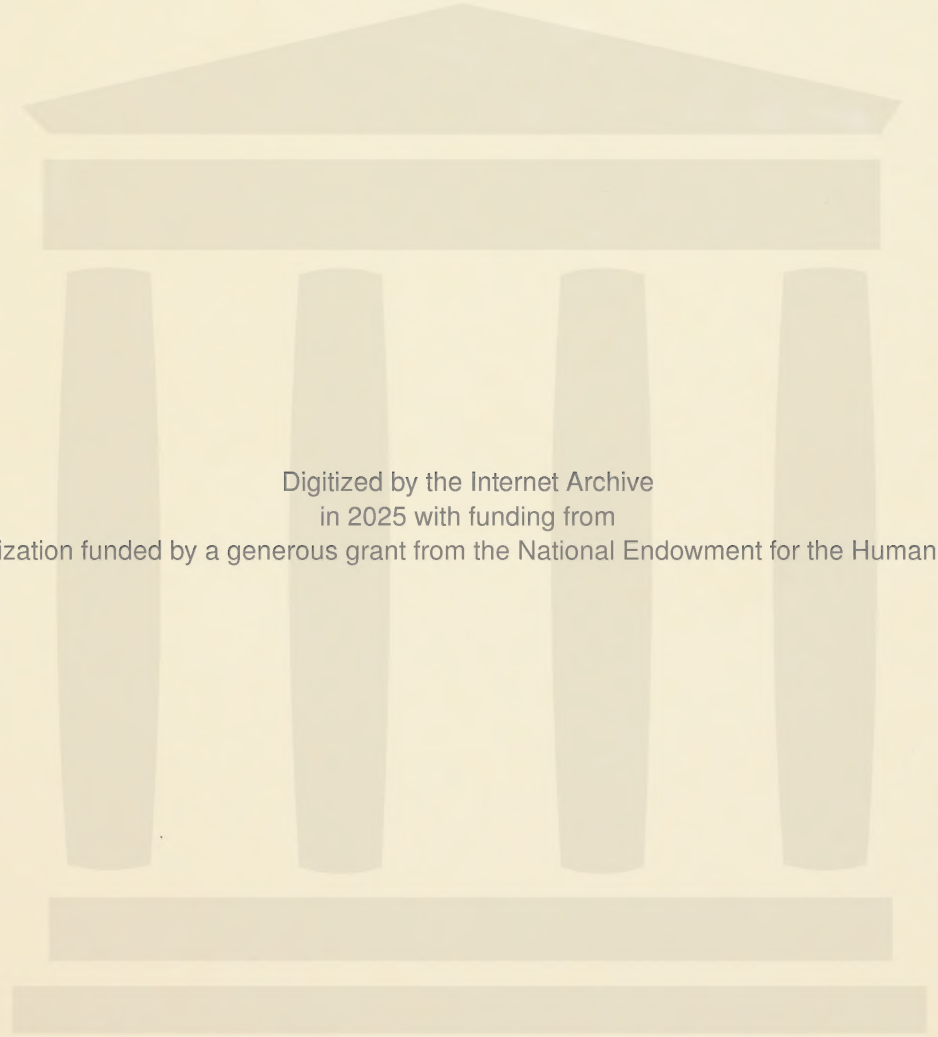

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https://archive.org/details/saltcedars200100harv

LETTERS continued from page 2

them. Within minutes, we were recovered. I had earlier tasted the salt cedar leaves after I had seen some animals licking some that had fallen to the ground, no doubt to obtain the same life-giving benefit from the salt cedar's leaves as I had. And for the next couple of years while I lived in that area, I sucked on salt cedar leaves hundreds of times with no ill effects. I believe that these salts could possibly be of commercial benefit to our area.

Several years ago, I returned to the Colorado River. It was very low and apparently highly polluted from human waste, herbicides, motorboat gasoline spillage, and trash. None of the observed damage to this once beautiful, wild native river was caused by salt cedar.

I would also note that the claimed loss of water by salt cedars cannot possibly be true. When evaporation occurs, the result is cooling. That's how your swamp cooler works. The more the evaporation, the greater the cooling. The leaves, branches and trunk of every salt cedar I felt were no cooler than those of any other tree. Furthermore, since the branches of the salt cedars prevent the sun from hitting much of the water directly, the salt cedars prevent much river evaporation. I suspect that much of the loss of water falsely blamed on salt cedars is actually caused by humans wasting or ripping off the water.

Then of course there is the chemical question. Do we want to introduce even more chemicals of unknown long-term effects — especially near and on our sources of water?

John J. Williams

We'd like to hear from you

You may submit letters to the editor via e-mail (letters@crosswindsweekly.com) or mail (Letters, c/o Crosswinds Weekly, 3701 San Mateo NE, Suite J, Albuquerque, NM 87110). Please include your name, address and phone number (for verification purposes only). Letters are published on a space-available basis. Please keep your letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit for length and clarity. CW

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Albuquerque ★ Santa Fe
December 26, 2002 – January 9, 2003

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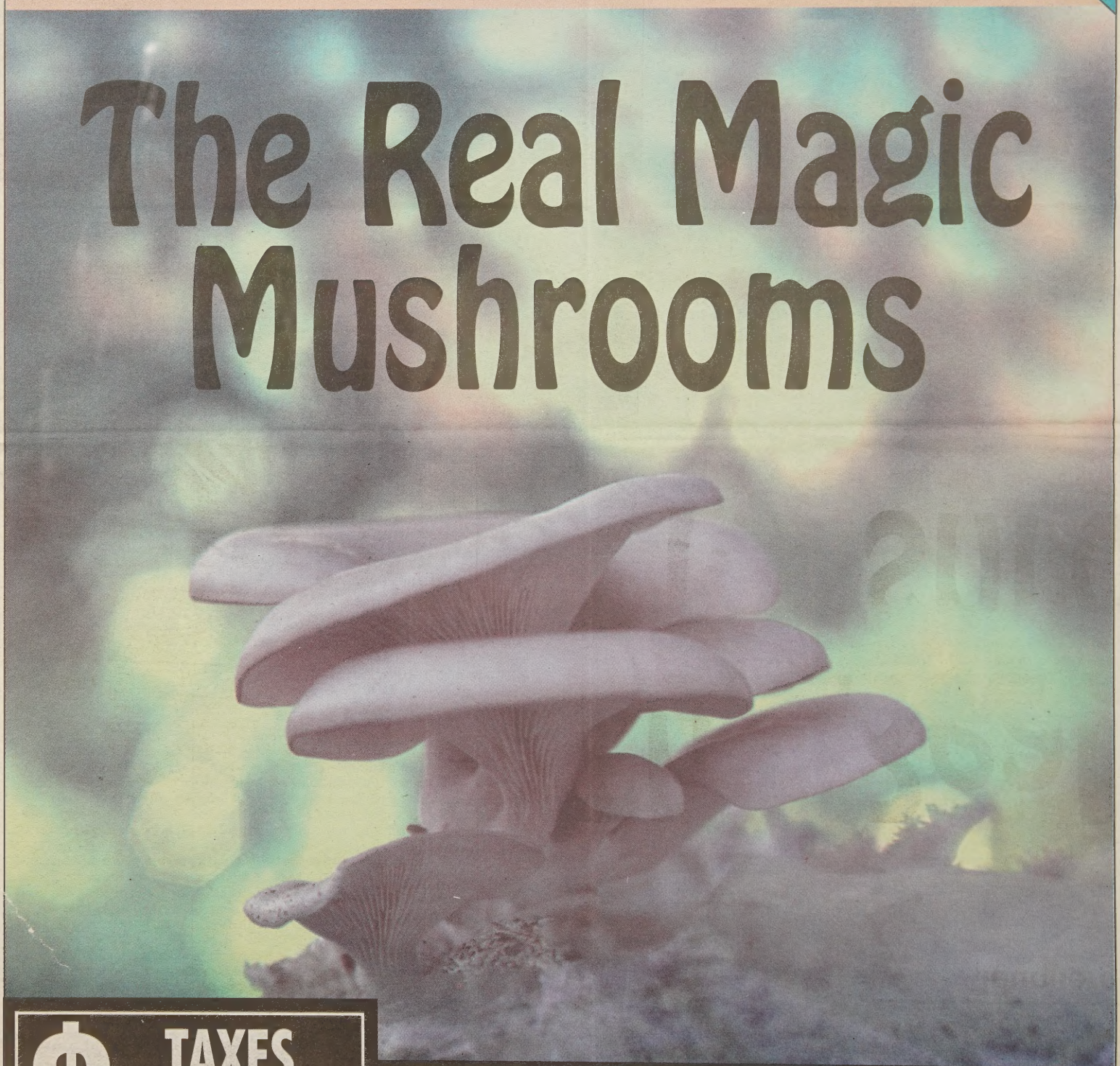
The Real Magic Mushrooms



$ TAXES and how to make them better

Citizen Kayne: Don't go changin'

Reliable Sources: Reach out and aggravate somebody

They're almost gone!

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JANUARY 2003
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Letters

Give Old Town Merchants a Break

I just picked up the latest issue of *Crosswinds Weekly*. I saw that it is the Holiday Gift Guide issue [Dec. 5] and I couldn't wait to read it from cover to cover. When I finished reading, I sat almost stunned not believing what I had just read, or rather not read.

The whole gift guide was geared towards Nob Hill, with Nob Hill stores almost exclusively listed. There was no mention of the many fine shops and galleries in Old Town or the mention of the Old Town Holiday Stroll which took place the day after Nob Hill's Shop and Stroll.

The Old Town Holiday Stroll was an incredibly beautiful evening of luminarias, open houses, entertainment, and yes shopping. I believe it to be the next best thing to Christmas Eve in Old Town.

What a shame you chose not to include such a wonderful event or shopping district in your Gift Guide issue. I hope all your Old Town advertisers did well despite their lack of support from *Crosswinds Weekly*.

Kevin Burgess
Gypsy Caravan Gallery, Old Town
Albuquerque

Nailing Eclipse

I have enjoyed your articles on Eclipse (an aptly named company) and your most recent comment may be your next to last ["Reliable Sources: Eclipsed," *CW*, Dec. 12]. (The last one being when the company closes its doors by the end of June at the latest.)

First of all, what reputable aircraft engine company wants to work with Eclipse? They will want to see, and get to see, the financials, something we do not see.

How many of the "orders," particularly from the Swiss Air Taxi company, will remain on the books?

What actually, is Vern [Raburn]'s aircraft experience?

More important, our mayor and the County Board will really be hurt by the failure, as will the taxpayers who are holding the bag.

The federals will brush it off, saying they performed Due Diligence and made a reasonable bet, with taxpayers' money.

Also, I guess that much of Vern's investment is in options he granted to himself, and very little cash.

In early July, I asked for the business plan and related material. I have not received anything and doubt that I will.

If there is no new engine company involved by mid–February, then it is over, perhaps not officially or legally, but the company cannot last. How can they hire the engineers needed to fit a new engine to the airframe? Why will current employees stay?

George M. Richmond
Albuquerque

Letter Writers Are Biased Too

I would like to respond to the [letter] written by Edward Shepherd entitled "Columnists Are Biased" [our headline] that appeared in *Crosswinds Weekly* on Nov. 28. He states, "I wonder why some new arrivals to New Mexico know better than I what's good for New Mexico." He further states, "[Richard] Romero is a cosmetic achiever and [Heather] Wilson comes across as more sincere to the veterans. She has a proven record and makes promises that can be kept." Well, Mr. Shepherd, I too was raised in New Mexico and it seems to me that you have contradicted yourself when you have pretty much said that Heather Wilson "knows what's good for New Mexico." Let me remind you that she came to New Mexico in the mid '90s, and she is not a native New Mexican as you stated that "you are" in your [letter]. Does she know better than *you* what's good for New Mexico? Richard Romero is a native New Mexican. Does this mean you will listen to him?

I suppose you are biased, as you so factually referred to in your [letter]. You criticized [*CW* columnists] Steve Lawrence and Hal Rhodes for being "biased against the Republican Party." You are pretty much "in left field" on this one. Hal Rhodes is a respected scholar and former professor of political science from the University of New Mexico. He "calls them as he sees them" on all political issues and on both sides of the line whether it be Democrat, Republican or Green. Many columnists "skew statistics" but when Hal Rhodes' columns appear in the *Albuquerque Tribune* and *Crosswinds Weekly*, you can bet he'll be straight up on his facts, storyline and statistics. On occasion Rhodes writes something that is not to my liking but I do respect his point of view because I know it's accurate, precise and factual, and Mr. Shepherd that's "accurate and honest journalism"!

Phil Ewing
Albuquerque

In Praise of Salt Cedar

I was much alarmed by the *Albuquerque Tribune*'s Nov. 12 article, "Slaying the salt cedar beast." From my experience, salt cedar is not a menace as it is described. Apparently, certain special interests have geared up their PR firms so that the people are frightened into the perpetual funding of countless millions for their unneeded and unworkable salt cedar eradication schemes, with further environmental damage in the process.

Forty years ago as a teenager, I lived along the Colorado River. In some areas, large stands of salt cedar covered the banks. Yet, the Colorado then was deep and wide, and its water was clean enough to drink and swim in, and to eat its abundant and varied fish. I recall fishing under the shade of the salt cedars for the numerous bass, perch and blue gill that used to gather under its overhanging branches to catch dropping insects. The salt cedars were habitats for numerous animals from bugs — including wild honey bees — to larger animals, such as rabbit and wild pig. And lots of birds building their nests. And when we camped near the river, it was the branches of the salt cedar that warmed my friends and I at our campfires and cooked our fish.

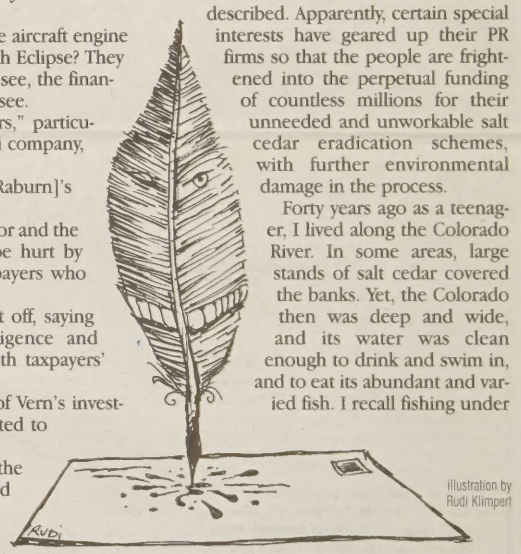

illustration by Rudi Klimpert

In fact, salt cedar literally saved the lives of the six of us. We had all gone out into the desert near Topock for a hike. It was a blistering summer day. Everyone forgot to bring the salted snacks we usually brought on such hikes, but we did have plenty of water. On our return to the river, we all began to get dizzy and very sweaty. We knew that we were all in serious trouble because of salt depletion. A couple of the guys had to be almost carried. I immediately went to a salt cedar, tore off a handful of it soft, whitish, needle–like leaves and passed them around, and we all began sucking the salt from

LETTERS continued on page 4

BHHC-1-1-24 Salt Cedars